



April 2012

Detours! Detours! Everyone seems really excited about Cascades Park, including me. Sadly, with opportunity comes the pain of change, and thus many of you are suffering inconvenience from diverted traffic as a consequence of finalizing work on the park and other upgrades to the general area. Here's an update:

- **Cascades Lane** will open to traffic on June 1st.
- **Franklin Boulevard** is receiving a facelift, and work there will continue until this September. The new Franklin will be much safer, with sidewalks, bicycle paths, turn lanes, and most of all, greatly reduced flooding. In the long run, this temporary inconvenience will become a major improvement that was a long time coming for residents and those who drive the roadway.
- The County is doing a much needed sewer replacement on **Lafayette Street** with periodic closings until December. This project also includes repaving, with wider sidewalks, landscaping and new lighting. All good things. Work is phased, with the section between Myers Park Drive and the CSX railroad complete by September. Work from Myers Park to Goodbody will begin September 1st and end Oct 15th. Construction from Goodbody to Seminole will begin Oct 15th and end December 1st. There is currently a detour via Myers Park Drive and Gaines Street.
- The **Lafayette / Magnolia intersection** should be done by this September.
- In July, construction of the **Capital Cascades Trail** west of Monroe Street will begin with work on the stormwater culvert between Monroe St. and Adams St. Completion is expected by March 2013. When that work is finished, construction will begin on the South Monroe connector bridge which should take no longer than 12 months to complete (March 2014).
- Phase 2 of the **Gaines Street rebuild** is underway and should be completed this year.
- **Downtown sidewalks** are being upgraded due to ADA requirements.

Many of us have been looking forward to this park for over ten years, and I truly believe it will become a tremendous asset for our community, control flooding and provide an economic stimulus to downtown and the surrounding area. These road closures are a temporary growing pain. The bad news is – it's all happening at once; the good news is that everything will be done, and these efforts will ensure that the citizens of Tallahassee get the maximum opportunity from Cascades Park and the surrounding area.

Cascades Park is set to be mostly completed by *this December*, with minor wrap-up work until February 2013. We hope for a grand opening in March 2013.

Upcoming Events

April 11, 2012 Regular City Commission Meeting—City Hall, 4 PM

April 12, 2012 Community Budget Meeting—Walker-Ford Community Center, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

April 16, 2012 Community Budget Meeting—Senior Center, 4– 6 PM

April 18, 2012 Community Budget Meeting—Gilchrist Elementary, 5:30– 7:30 PM

April 23, 2012 Environment & Energy Target Issue Committee Meeting—City Hall, 3 PM

April 24, 2012 Comp Plan Public Hearing —County Courthouse, 6PM

April 25, 2012 Regular City Commission Meeting—City Hall, 4 PM



25 Women to Know: I am so proud of my daughter, Betsy Couch, who has been named one of the *Tallahassee Democrat's* 25 Women You Need to Know. Along with being a wonderful mother, Betsy is an adjunct professor at FSU and still finds time to chair the KCCI Cultivate Cascades Project. She loves this community and deserves this recognition for working very hard at the numerous leadership positions she has held.

Colonial Drive: The residents of Tallahassee's Midtown neighborhood love their walkable community. They applied for and received a federal transportation enhancement grant, and by the end of this year, construction will begin on sidewalks along Terrace Street, Ninth Avenue, and Colonial Drive. This will provide a safer walking experience for residents and families and promote easier access to parks and other recreational facilities in the area.

Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT): Construction of Tallahassee's Advanced Wastewater Treatment plant on Springhill Road is right on schedule. Major milestones in reducing nitrogen pollution have been achieved well ahead of schedule,

exceeding expectations set by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. When the upgrades are completed in 2015, nitrate pollution will be reduced by 75%. This project is a testament to the city's commitment to keeping area water supplies clean and safe, for now and into the future.



Getting a tour of the new pipes at the AWT Plant last month.

Did You Know?

- For the second year in a row, the City's Electric Utility was awarded a first place **Safety Award** for its continued commitment to safe work practices, by the Florida Municipal Electric Association.
- By partnering with the ASPCA, the Animal Shelter Foundation, and other local animal welfare groups, the Tallahassee-Leon County Animal Service Center was able to help **186 dogs and cats** find new homes last weekend at the Mega-Match-A-Thon!
- The 2012 Mayor's Summit on Race, Culture, and Human Relations is April 9th and 10th at the Civic Center. To register, or for more information, please visit <http://www.talgov.com/ewd/race.cfm>

Warmly,

Nancy Miller, Commissioner
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